

Pineau Placer Mining Camp, Reservoir and Cabin
Goldcreek vicinity
Granite County
Montana

HAER No. MT-38A

HAER
MONT.
20-GOCRE.V,
2-A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
MONT,
20-GOLD CREEK,
2-A-

Pineau Placer Mining Camp, Reservoir and Cabin

HAER No. MT-38A

Location: Sec. 15, T8N R12W
Goldcreek vicinity, Granite County, Montana

UTM: "A" 12.341325.5147280
"B" 12.341540.5147290
"C" 12.341530.5147180
"D" 12.341410.5147160

Quad: Pikes Peak

Date of Construction: ca. 1890s-1920

Present Owner: Deerlodge National Forest
U. S. Forest Service
Butte, Montana

Original Use: Reservoir/Cabin

Present Use: Abandoned

Significance: The reservoir and cabin were constructed early in the twentieth century by Gus Pineau, who mined placer gold in the area from the 1870s through the 1920s. The Pineau operation was the richest mine on Upper Goldcreek and, in some years during the early part of the twentieth century, was the richest mine in the entire Pioneer/Goldcreek district.

Researchers: Craig Holstine and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern Washington University, 1983

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

An earthen dam, measuring 200 feet long, 10 to 15 feet wide, and 6 feet high, lies in a mountain meadow near the head of Goldcreek at a point 1.25 miles southwest of the Pineau Placer Camp. The dam formerly supplied water to the Pineau diggings downstream, but the reservoir is now empty. A mile-long ditch, measuring four feet deep and six feet high, carried water from the dam along the south side of the valley to a point above the placer mines where water was distributed as needed. An old wooden chute and the remains of wooden headgates (nonfunctioning) still are present. The main channel of Goldcreek nows passes through modern drainpipes at the center of the dam. A 9x9-foot cabin stands in the trees a few yards south of the meadow about 100 feet southwest of the dam. The walls consist of unpeeled logs, sawn and axed at the ends, with slat and mortar chinking. The roof, composed of boards covered with canvas, is largely intact.

References: William Harvey Emmons and Frank Cathcart Calkins, Geology and Ore Deposits of the Philipsburg Quadrangle, Montana, U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 78, 1913, p. 264.

J. T. Pardee, "Gold Placer Deposits on the Pioneer District, Montana,." In Contributions to Economic Geology 1951, U. S. Geology Survey Bulletin 8-978, 1951, pp. 69, 79, 93-95.